Mountain Weather Forecast

Southwest Highlands

Including Ben Nevis, Glen Coe and the rest of Lochaber, Argyll including the Isles, Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Arran
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 22 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 at 15:59 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for remaining very changeable and windy, and for storm force winds on Thursday. Medium for details, falling low from later Friday onwards especially regarding the boundary of mild and cold air and snow levels on Friday.

Headline for Thursday 21 Dec 2023: A stormy day with frequent showers turning increasingly to snow.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy rain showers	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
>95%	>95%	70%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy overnight with persistent heavy rain in the early hours, this turning showery later in the night. Daylight hours will bringing frequent showers and some bright or sunny intervals. The showers quite heavy and blustery, falling as snow initially above 900m but as it turns colder from the north, they will turn to snow down to 600m over Lochaber during the afternoon, 700-800m further south. Limited fresh snowfalls but where they do occur on northern peaks some blowing or drifting is likely in the very strong winds.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% in early hours, rising 70% through daylight hours.

Low Cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud at 450-750m in early hours with poor visibility in heavy rain below the cloud. The cloud breaking and lifting to nearer 1000-1200m by daybreak, sometimes higher, with good visibility away from showers, but near showers bases could fall to 750m and visibility fall to occasionally poor as heavier showers pass through, especially at height when they turn to snow.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	57/71 W	70/90 W	67/87 W	64/82 NW	57/73 NW	55/71 NW	49/64 NW	47/61 W	44/58 W
900	40/53 W	52/70 W	49/66 W	47/63 NW	42/57 NW	39/53 NW	34/47 NW	33/46 W	32/46 W
600	43/55 W	50/67 W	46/62 W	43/58 W	38/52 NW	34/47 NW	30/42 W	28/40 W	28/40 W
300	23/35 W	31/48 W	32/49 W	27/41 NW	23/36 NW	20/31 NW	18/28 NW	18/29 W	17/28 W
Glen	18/37 W	22/48 W	22/47 W	19/42 W	16/36 NW	14/32 NW	12/29 W	12/28 W	12/28 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	2/-7	2/-8	-0/-11	-2/-14	-4/-15	-4/-15	-4/-15	-4/-14	-3/-14
900	4/-3	5/-3	3/-6	1/-8	-0/-9	-1/-10	-1/-10	-1/-9	-1/-9
600	6/-0	7/-0	5/-2	4/-4	2/-5	2/-6	1/-6	2/-5	2/-5
300	8/4	9/4	8/2	6/1	5/-0	4/-1	4/-1	4/-1	4/-1
Glen	10/7	11/7	10/6	8/5	7/4	6/3	6/3	6/3	6/3
Freezing Level*	1600m	1600m	1300m	1000m	800m	700m	700m	700m	800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Storm force winds with gusts around 100mph possible on exposed ridges and summits, where any mobility will be almost impossible with a high risk of being blown off your feet. Note also the extremely low feels like temperatures.

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with occasional rain, and snow above about 750m, but snow level rising to 900m in north and above summits in south by evening, when the rain will become heavier and more persistent.

Maximum wind: Though not as windy as Thursday, west to northwesterly winds will remain very strong, around 50 gusts 70mph on exposed ridges and summits, with a slight decrease through the afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% or less.

Low Cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud at 600-800m with lower patches. Poor visibility even outwith cloud at times, in heavier rain, or where there is still snow falling.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 5 Celsius in north, Plus 8 in south.
At 800m: 0 Celsius, rising to plus 4 in the south in the afternoon, and in the north later in the evening.
Freezing level: At first, 800-900m, but rising above summits in the afternoon, and in the north later in the evening

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